6322.0 - Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1996

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More working days lost through industrial disputes

The number of working days lost from industrial disputes increased from 547,600 to 928,500 between 1995 and 1996, according to data released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This was the second consecutive annual increase in working days lost.

All States and Territories, except Western Australia, experienced increases in working days lost. New South Wales recorded the highest increase, recording 377,900 working days lost, a rise of 264,300 from 1995, and accounted for 41 per cent of the total for Australia in 1996. In Western Australia, working days lost decreased from 101,600 in 1995 to 47,300 in 1996.

The Construction industry reported 334,800 working days lost or 36 per cent of the all industries total. Other industries to experience high levels of working days lost included Education, Health and Community Services with 239,800 working days lost and Coal Mining with 160,800 working days lost. Within Education, Health and Community Services, disputation in Education was most significant with 233,900 working days lost reported compared to 5,900 recorded for the Health and community services industry.

Working days lost per thousand employees at the Australian level increased from 79 in 1995 to 131 in 1996, the highest since 1992. States that recorded high rates of working days lost per thousand employees were Queensland (162), New South Wales (158) and the Australian Capital Territory (148). On an industry basis the highest numbers of working days lost per thousand employees were recorded by Coal mining (7,171), Construction (892) and Education; Health and Community services (187).

More detailed information can found in **Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1996** (cat. no. 6322.0) available from ABS bookshops in all capital cities.

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